

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 were all the claims pending in the application at the time of final rejection, which rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FORKER JR et al. (US 3,773,489) in view of AZOM (Dealing with Used Salt from Salt Furnaces) and BEHNER (Potassium Dichromate).

Claim 1 was amended and new claims 12 and 13 were added by the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116, which was filed on August 10, 2009 but was denied entry in the Advisory Action dated August 28, 2009.

By the accompanying RCE, Applicants request entry of the amendment filed on August 10, 2009, and further amend claim 1 in the present Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c). The further amendment to claim 1 addresses the Examiner's comments in the Advisory Action.

Specifically, in the Advisory Action, the Examiner finds that the amendment filed on August 10, 2009 does not place the application in condition for allowance because Applicant's arguments that FORKER is directed to glass articles and not glass discs, and that FORKER does not teach using the product in an information recording medium, are not convincing.

No Disclosure of Disks for HDD

While FORKER does disclose that the glass articles contain magnetic coatings and would provide good magnetic coatability (column 6, lines 19 to 20), Applicants respectfully submit that the glass article with the magnetic coating is NOT a recording medium for a HDD (Hard Disk Drive), as now claimed. This is because such a HDD with a glass substrate did not exist on the filing date of FORKER, namely, November 14, 1969. At least, no one skilled in the art knew of or even conceived of a HDD which has a recording density of 40 Gbits/inch² on that filing date (see page 19, lines 4 to 6 of the instant specification).

No Disclosure of Pressing Powder into Granules

In addition, according to the invention as now claimed, the granular chemical strengthening salt is obtained by pressing powder (see page 15, lines 7 to 4 from the bottom of the original specification). This feature has significant advantages, as disclosed, that are not considered by the prior art.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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